From: dpcurator@aol.com
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: Re: Resolution regarding Israel
Date: Friday, April 20, 2018 10:14:38 AM

Dear Ms. Simmons,

Thank you for your thoughtful reply. I am heartened that you are looking closely at this issue and working toward a well-informed viewpoint.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Kaufman

In a message dated 4/19/2018 2:02:53 PM Eastern Standard Time, dsimmons@cambridgema.gov writes:

> Dear Mr. Kaufman,
>
> Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of concern in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that **this will only appear on the City Council's agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it.** We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online on a Thursday evening around 5:30 pm prior to the Monday meeting (indeed, the latest I'm hearing is that the organization looking to have this sponsored may be recalculating as to when they think this can be introduced). I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.
>
> There have been numerous passionate op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. Neither scenario is accurate. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet actually have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to take this up for consideration unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting. At this point, I am not yet certain if such a resolution will be introduced or not.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: dpcurator@aol.com <dpcurator@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 1:56 PM
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: Resolution regarding Israel

Dear Councilor Simmons,

I am a former resident of Cambridge (Concord Ave at the Craigie intersection) and have always held my former home in high esteem. Thus, I was extremely concerned and dismayed to learn recently that the City Council was even considering a vote which would unfairly condemn Israel.

Israel is a multi-racial, multi-religious, pluralist democracy which at its rebirth in 1947 agreed to the creation of a neighboring Arab state for a people who had never had an independent country of their own. But while the Jews of Israel threw off the yoke of British occupation and the U.N. mandated a two-state solution, their Arab neighbors rejected that two-state solution and instead pursued the goal of eradicating the state of their Jewish neighbors.

Israel has her flaws, but has made numerous offers of peace including a state for Palestinians, only to have those offers (most notably one endorsed by President Clinton) rejected out of hand and responded to with waves of terrorism killing hundreds of Israeli civilians.

There is still hope that the Palestinian people will find leadership that will embrace the path to peace. However, that path to peace will be undermined

by efforts that demonize Israel and enable unchallenged, the worst behavior by the current leadership of the Palestinian people.

I am convinced that the City Council of Cambridge does not wish to undermine prospects for peace for the peoples of the region and will see the wisdom in avoiding one-sided partisan efforts to attack Israel.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Kaufman

Dedham, MA